for interception, diversion and treatment, a capacity to treat 835 million litres per day of wastewater has been created. With the completion of these schemes, it has been possible to minimise the organic pollution reaching the river Ganga. Water quality of river has shown improvement wherever completed works are functional. However, there has been only an incidental reduction in the level of microbial pollution of the treated sewage reaching the river.

Ganga Action Plan, Phase—"II" has been approved in stages by the Government of India between April, 1993 to October, 1996.About 1861 million litres per day of domestic wastewater is targeted for interception, diversion and treatment under this phase. The total sanctioned cost is Rs. 1276.26 crore and this includes the following schemes for implementation in 95 towns in 5 States.

1. Interception and diversion
2. Sewage treatment plant
3. Electric and wood-based crematoria
4. Low cost sanitation
5. River front development works.

Mingling for North-South rivers

†1350. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided for considering the possibilities to mingle the rivers flowing in the North and South India;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the names of the rivers of the country identified for mingling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) The erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) and Central Water Commission had in 1980 formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development which envisages inter linkages between various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilisation of water resources. The Peninsular rivers are Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Pennar, Cauvery, Vaigai,

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Parbati, Kalisindh, Chambal, Damanganga, Pinjal, Par, Tapi, Narmada, Ken, Betwa, Pamba, Achankovil, Bedti, Varda, Netravati and Hemavati. The Himalayan Rivers are Kosi, Mechi, Ghagra, Gandak, Ganga, Yamuna, Sarda, Sabarmati, Sone, Brahmaputra, Domadar and Subernarekha. The Government of India has established National Water Development Agency (NWDA) as an Autonomous Society in July, 1982 to carry out the water balance and other studies of National Perspective Plan and to prepare feasibility report of the links. NWDA has completed prefeasibility report of 31 water transfer links and feasibility report of 5 water transfer links. Implementation of Water transfer link proposal depends on how soon the detailed project report are prepared, consensus is reached among the concerned States and availability of funds.

Water for irrigation

†1351. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of water flowing from the rivers of the country and the percentage "of the water used for irrigation and drinking purposes;

(b) the percentage of cultivable land available in the country that is not irrigated for lack of irrigation facilities;

(c) whether Government are willing to prepare a plan to provide 'water to every farm after having time-bound fruitful consultations with various States of the country; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Average Annual Flow available in the rivers of the country is around 1869 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM). As per the present assessment, 750 BCM of water including replenishable Groundwater is being used for various purposes such as drinking, irigation, industrial, energy, etc. Out of this, the percentage used for irrigation and drinking purposes is about 88%.

(b) As per Land Use Statistics brought out by Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1996-97 (latest), the Net Sown Area in the country is 142.82 Million hectare. Out of this, the Net Irrigated Area is 55.14 million hectare constituting 38.61%.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.